

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-07 AID-05 INT-05 IO-13

EB-07 /048 W

-----049640 231003Z /20

R 221630Z JUL 77

FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4944

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CASABLANCA 0817

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, MO

SUBJ: DEPARTURE OF ONP DIRGEN LAYACHI

REF: (A) STATE 164734; (B) CASABLANCA 0657; (C) CASABLANCA 0666

(BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED)

1. RFA PREPARED DRAFT CABLE ON DEPARTURE OF ONP DIRGEN LAYACHI ON JUNE 9, 1977. REPORT WAS FORWARDED TO AMEMBASSY RABAT FOR INCLUSION INTO REPORT COVERING JUNE 3 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. POSSIBLE THAT REPORT OF ELECTIONS, WITHOUT EFIS TAG, DID NOT REACH NMFS/NOAA/USDOC. REGRET DELAY.

2. REASON FOR ONP DIRGEN LAYACHI'S DEPARTURE WAS HIS ELECTION AS INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE REPRESENTING A DISTRICT IN RABAT WHERE HE MAINTAINS RESIDENCE IN JUNE 3RD ELECTIONS. LAYACHI EXPECTED TO LEAVE OFFICE IN OCTOBER WHEN PARLIAMENT OPENS. (END UNCLASSIFIED)

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3. LAYACHI, IN RFA'S VIEW, RAN A VERY TIGHT OPERATION
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WITH FEW INDIVIDUALS PERMITTED TO SHOW INITIATIVE. LAYACHI, AGAIN IN RFA'S OPINION, CAN BE CHARACTERIZED AS BEING PRO-FRENCH AND NOT SYMPATHETIC TO ANY OTHER COUNTRY UNLESS HE PERSONALLY STANDS TO GAIN. RFA NOTES THAT LAYACHI INSISTED ON TELEPHONE APPOINTMENTS BEING MADE BEFORE GRANTING INTERVIEW--SOMETIMES DELAYING APPOINTMENT FOR SEVERAL WEEKS--AND INSISTING THAT

RFA SPEAK FRENCH. DESPITE PLEASANT ATMOSPHERE OF TALKS, LAYACHI NEVER ONCE FOLLOWED UP OR SHOWED ANY FURTHER INTEREST IN ANY PROPOSAL RAISED BY RFA. BY CONTRAST, DURING MADRID ICCAT CONFERENCE, WHEN LAYACHI WISHED TO BE NOMINATED PRESIDENT OF ICCAT MEETING, HE APPROACHED RFA, OFFERED HIM COFFEE AND SPOKE IN ENGLISH. THIS "WARMTH" HAS NEVER AGAIN BEEN EVIDENT. THIS ATTITUDE DOES NOT, RFA BELIEVES, SHOW AN ANTI-AMERICAN FEELING. RFA HAS FOUND THAT MANY MEMBERS OF MOROCCAN FISHING INDUSTRY, AS WELL AS OTHER FOREIGN INDUSTRY MEMBERS, HAVE FOUND LAYACHI ALLOF AND EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH. MOST MOROCCAN INDUSTRY LEADERS OPENLY CRITICAL OF LAYACHI FOR ESTABLISHING PERSONAL FIEFDOM WHERE ONP DEVELOPS ITS OWN FISHERIES AND IGNORES EXISTING INDUSTRY.

4. RFA DOES NOT ANTICIPATE ANY ABRUPT CHANGES IN DIRECTION OF ONP SINCE NEW DIRGEN WILL INHERIT EXISTING FRAMEWORK OF OPERATIONAL FISHING INDUSTRIES, INCLUDING CONTRACT FOR 18 STERN TRAWLERS NOW BEING BUILT IN FRANCE. RFA HOPES, HOWEVER, THAT NEW REPLACEMENT WILL PROVE MORE OPEN AND MORE WILLING TO SEEK ADVICE FROM ALL QUARTERS, INCLUDING RFA.

5. RFA PROJECTS THAT NEW ONP DIRGEN WILL HAVE TO EMPHASIZE FISHERIES TRAINING, DEVELOPMENT OF COLD CHAIN TO SERVE FISHING INDUSTRY, AND CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTHERN FISH-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ING GROUNDS, INCLUDING PORT DEVELOPMENT AND ACQUISITION OF NEW FISHING VESSELS. RFA DOES ANTICIPATE, HOWEVER, A POSSIBLE SLOWDOWN IN PURCHASES OF NEW VESSELS BY ONP UNTIL TRAINED CREWS AND INFRASTRUCTURE CAN BE DEVELOPED.

6. HIGHLY PLACED INDUSTRY SOURCE WHO WISHES TO REMAIN UNIDENTIFIED INFORMED RFA THAT MOHAMED KABBADJ (ALSO CALLED OMAR KABBAJ), CHEF DU CABINET DU MINISTRE, MINISTRE DU COMMERCE, DE L'INDUSTRIES, DES MINES, ET DE LA MARINE MARCHANDE IS BEING CONSIDERED AS LAYACHI'S REPLACEMENT. KABBADJ REPORTEDLY IS BACKED BY MINISTER ABDELLATIF GHISSASSI. SOURCE ALSO SAID THAT LAYACHI IS PRESSING TO HAVE FARID BRITEL, DIRGEN OF CODIMER-ASMAK (AN ONP-SPONSORED, FRESH/FROZEN FISH DISTRIBUTION AND SALES AGENCY). AND NUMBER TWO MAN IN ONP CHAIN, NAMED AS HIS REPLACEMENT. SOURCE SAID THAT "RUMOR" AND ONLY RUMMR IS GOING AROUND THAT KING MAY HAVE SOMEONE ELSE IN MIND.

7. SAME SOURCE INDICATED KING MIGHT CONSIDER ESTABLISHING A MINISTER OF FISHERIES POSITION IN GOM AND THAT LAYACHI WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE CANDIDATE FOR POSITION. THIS STATEMENT HAS COME UP MANY TIMES IN

PAST, BUT APPEARS TO BE REAL POSSIBILITY IN NEAR FUTURE.
RFA BELIEVES SOURCE, WHO ATTENDED MEETING WITH MINISTER
GHISSASSI TO DEVELOP MOROCCO'S FIVE-YEAR FISHERIES PLAN, IS
PROVIDING RFA WITH REASONABLY ACCURATE INFORMATION, HOWEVER,
KING WILL DECIDE OUTCOME. SOURCE, INCIDENTLY, HAS PROMISED
COPY OF FIVE-YEAR PLAN TO RFA IN NEXT FEW DAYS. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS.
KUNIHOLM

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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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